

Where's The Art?



Art Education is often promoted as anything you want it to be — enrichment, exposure, even entertainment. Another myth is that art can be taught just about anywhere, often for serving at-risk or special needs students. The truth is *all* children benefit from arts study regardless of their at-risk or special needs status, and it is in the *school* where the majority of students have the best and most equal opportunity for arts learning. No one can ensure equity and access to *all* our students the way the nation's K-12 schools can — with arts instruction provided during the school day, as an equal part of the curriculum, and taught by full-time arts educators.

Yet, only half of our nation's elementary schools have full-time art teachers, 60% of public secondary schools require arts as a part of graduation requirements, only 35% of higher education institutions count arts grades when computing GPA's, only 14 states license or certify art teachers based on specific arts standards, and only 7 states conduct statewide assessments in the arts.

We need better arts education policies for our children!

What Can You Do?

- *Lead efforts to generate public understanding of the ideas behind the importance of art education policies that promote student learning in art.*
- *Encourage parents, school boards, legislators, press/media to support better policies for art education programs that lead to student learning in art.*
- *Spend time at public meetings to review how art education policies can enhance the quality of art education for all students.*

SUPPORT IMPROVING ART EDUCATION POLICIES.

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